
**Health Care & Wellness
Committee**

SSB 5153

Brief Description: Encouraging employers to be infant-friendly.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research & Development (originally sponsored by Senators Franklin, Kohl-Welles, Shin, Weinstein, Oemig, Keiser, Kauffman, Rockefeller, Fairley, Hargrove, Rasmussen, Spanel, Fraser, Jacobsen and Haugen).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Requires employers to disclose information to employees about the adoption of infant-friendly policies.
- Directs the Department of Health to establish a stakeholder group to develop model infant-friendly policies.

Hearing Date: 3/19/07

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

Background:

Employers that meet certain requirements may be designated by the Department of Health (Department) as "infant-friendly" if they have approved workplace breastfeeding policies. To receive the designation the policy must allow for a flexible work schedule; a convenient, sanitary, safe, and private location to allow for breastfeeding or expressing breastmilk; a convenient, clean, and safe water source for washing hands and equipment; and a convenient, hygienic refrigerator for storing breast milk.

Summary of Bill:

Employers that have infant-friendly policies must include them in their personnel policies and mention whether or not they have been approved by the Department. If asked by an employee, an

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employer must tell an employee whether it has an infant-friendly policy or not, and if it does have such a policy, it shall disclose whether it has been approved by the Department or not.

The Department is instructed to convene a stakeholder group to develop model infant-friendly policies for employers. The Department must use existing mailings by state agencies to inform employers about the availability of the model policies and the infant-friendly designation. In addition, the Department must provide the policies to doctors, midwives, lactation consultants, and hospitals to distribute to expectant and new mothers.

Appropriation: The sum of \$55,000.

Fiscal Note: Requested on March 14, 2007.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.